

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3464

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0271

FOR CU/ WE

FOR IWE: ROTH

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL IC

SUBJECT: IV GRANTS FOR JOHANN BRIEM AND MARKUS ORN ANTONSSON

TRIP NEW YORK- WASH MARCH 18-27

1. EMBASSY NOMINATES JOHANN BRIEM, PUBLISHER OF FRJALS VERZLUN (BUSINESS WEEKLY CIRC. 6000) AND MARKUS ORN ANTONSSON, CHIEF EDITOR AND MEMBER REYKJAVIK CITY COUNCIL FOR THE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM FY73. THEY ARE SELECTED AS LEADERS IN PUBLISHING, BUSINESS AND URBAN POLITICS.

2. PLANS HAVE JUST BEEN COMPLETED FOR MR. BRIEM AND MR. ANTONSSON TO MAKE TEN AND EIGHT DAY TRIPS RESPECTIVELY TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON IN CONNECTION WITH PROMOTION OF TRADE AND TRAVEL BETWEEN THE US AND ICELAND. LOFTLEIDIR (ICELANDIC AIRLINES) HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AT NO COST. NOMINEES WILL PAY FOR NEW YORK- WASHINGTON- NEW YORK FARE. EMBASSY PROPOSES
IVE GRANT FOR PER DIEM EXPENSES IN AMOUNT OF \$30 PER DAY FOR EACH TRAVELLER. EIGHTEEN DAYS WOULD TOTAL \$540.

3. TRAVEL PLANS CALL FOR THE TWO VISITORS TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK MARCH 18, ARRIVE WASHINGTON MARCH 21, RETURN NEW YORK MARCH 24. MR. ANTONSSON WILL DEPART NEW YORK FOR ICELAND MARCH 25 AND MR. BRIEM WILL LEAVE MARCH 27.

4. SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF TRIP IS FOR MATERIAL IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIAL MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT ON OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND
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TRADE AND TRAVEL WITH US. ICELANDIC KRONUR HAS FOLLOWED DOLLAR VALUE MAKING U. S. PRICES INCREASINGLY ATTRACTIVE. SUPPLEMENT WILL STRESS ADVANTAGES OF ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH US AND EXPLAIN SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESSMEN AT EMBASSY. INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR WILL BE FEATURED ALONG WITH REVIEW OF CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL TIES WITH US.

5. MESSRS BRIEM AND ANTONSSON WISH VISIT MCGRAW- HILL TO SEE OPERATION OF BUSINESS WEEK AND ALSO PAY VISIT TO WALL STREET JOURNAL IN NEW YORK. IN WASHINGTON THEY SHOULD SEE DON BOSTWICK, EXEC. VICE- PRES EXIM BANK, HAROLD MCNITT, SCAN. DESK, DEPT. COMMERCE, RECEIVE E BUREAU BRIEFING ON EFTA AND EEC RELATIONS AND EFFECT ON US TRADE, AS WELL AS CU BRIEFING IF TIME PERMITS, CALL ON SMBA AND USTS AND IF POSSIBLE INTERVIEW QUOTABLE AUTHORITY ON US- EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RELATION.

6 BIOGRAPHIC DATA: JOHANN BRIEM. BORN: REYKJAVIK, JULY 23, 1946; ICELANDIC CITIZEN: HOME ADDRESS: BRUARFLOT 9 GARDAHREPPUR: ACADEMIC TRAINING: REYKJAVIK COMMERCIAL COLLEGE: PRESENT POSITION: PUBLISHER FRJALS VERZLUN (BUSINESS WEEKLY MAGAZINE); AND MANAGER FRJALST FRAMTAK (PUBLISHING HOUSE) ENGLISH: GOOD: MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN. MARKUS ORN ANTONSSON. BORN: REYKJAVIK , MAY 25, 1943; CITIZENSHIP: ICELANDIC; HOME ADDRESS: ASGARDUR 77, REYKJAVIK; ACADEMIC TRAINING: REYKJAVIK JUNIOR COLLEGE; PRESENT POSITION: EDITOR FRJALS VERZLUN, MEMBER REYKJAVIK CITY COUNCIL (INDEPENDENCE PARTY); IMPORTANT POSITION IN PAST: FOREIGN NEWS EDITOR STATE TV: ENGLISH: EXCELLENT. MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN.

7. EMBASSY CONSIDERS BOTH CANDIDATES VERY WELL QUALIFIED FOR LEADER PROGRAM. EACH HAS EXHIBITED GREAT POTENTIAL AND ALREADY HAS EARNED CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS AND RESPECT IN SPITE OF YOUTH. REGRET EXTREMELY SHORT NOTICE IN APPLYING FOR GRANT AND APPRECIATE WHATEVER IMMEDIATE ACTION CAN BE TAKEN.

8. THE EMBASSY HAS CONDUCTED A RECORD CHECK OF SUBJECTS AND HAS DISCLOSED NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION. IRVING

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